

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the captioned application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10: (Cancelled)

Claim 11. (Currently amended) A method of forming a consolidated PVDF elastomer product comprising the steps of:

- (a) forming a product blank profile from a PVDF foam;
- (b) placing said product blank profile in a mold between platens of a heated molding press;
- (c) volumetrically compressing said product blank profile between said platens by a ratio of 5:1 to 7:1 while heating said blank between 300°F and 350°F; and,
- (d) holding said compressed and heated product blank profile for a time sufficient to displace substantially all air from said PVDF foam.

Claim 12. (Currently amended) A method as described by claim 11 wherein said product blank profile comprises a serially stacked plurality of PVDF foam sheets.

Claim 13. (Currently amended) A method as described by claim 12 wherein said product blank profile is held in a said compressed and heated state for 5 to 10 minutes.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a sealing element for fluid system joints comprising the steps of:

- (a) forming a blank profile of a fluid system said sealing element from PVDF foam.
- (b) placing said blank profile between platens of a heated molding press;
- (c) compressing said blank profile by a ratio of between 5:1 and 7:1.
- (d) heating said compressed blank profile between 300°F and 350°F; and,
- (e) holding said blank profile in said compressed and heated state for a time period to displace substantially all air from said foam.

Claim 15. (original) A method of manufacturing a sealing element as described by claim 14 wherein said sealing element blank profile is formed from a plurality of PVDF foam sheets.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a sealing element as described by claim 14 wherein said blank profile is held in a said compressed and heated state for 5-10 minutes.

Claims 17-21: (Canceled)

Claim 22. (Previously presented) A method of forming a monolithic PVDF elastomer comprising the steps of:

- (a) placing a PVDF foam form in a mold between platens of a heated molding press;
- (b) volumetrically compressing said foam form between said platens by a ratio of 5:1 to 7:1 while heating said foam form between 300°F and 350°F; and,
- (c) holding said compressed and heated foam form for a time sufficient to transform said foam form to a consolidated elastomer having a Shore A Durometer of about 60 to 90.

Claim 23. (Previously presented) A method as described by claim 22 wherein said PVDF foam form comprises a substantially free volume space of 70% to 90%.

Claim 24. (Previously presented) A method as described by claim 22 wherein said foam form is transformed to a translucent elastomer.

Claim 25. (Previously presented) A method as described by claim 22 wherein said foam form is transformed to an elastomer having an elongation property of about 1,429% to about 1,869%